# Article information:

A High Note: Drug Misuse in Popular Rap Music - PubMed
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34121603/>

# Article summary:

1. A study examined the lyrical content of the top 25 most popular rap songs between 2006 and 2018 and found that 72% of them contained references to one or more substances, with prescription drug misuse occurring in 20% of songs.

2. Illicit drug references were present in 50% of songs, with marijuana being the most commonly referenced drug at 38%, followed by manufacturing or selling drugs (19%), cocaine or crack (17%), and MDMA (6%).

3. Yearly trends indicate that alcohol lyrics are declining, illicit drug lyrics remain stable, and prescription drug lyrics are increasing, which is concerning as prescription drug misuse is rising in popularity within rap music.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "A High Note: Drug Misuse in Popular Rap Music" by Ben Stickle examines the prevalence of drug references in popular rap music between 2006 and 2018. The study found that 72% of the top 25 most popular rap songs contained references to one or more substances, with illicit drug references being the most common (50%), followed by prescription drug misuse (20%). The article highlights the concerning trend of celebrating drug usage in rap music, especially as prescription drug misuse is rising in popularity within this genre.

Overall, the article provides a comprehensive analysis of the prevalence of drug references in popular rap music. However, there are some potential biases and limitations to consider. Firstly, the study only focuses on rap music and does not examine other genres or forms of media that may also contain drug references. This limits the generalizability of the findings to other forms of media.

Additionally, while the article notes that musical preference is related to substance misuse and other risky behaviors, it does not explore why this relationship exists or whether it is causal. It is possible that individuals who are already prone to substance misuse are more likely to gravitate towards certain types of music rather than the other way around.

Furthermore, while the article notes an increase in prescription drug misuse within rap music over time, it does not provide any evidence for why this trend is occurring or whether it is unique to this genre. It would be interesting to see if similar trends exist in other forms of media or among different demographics.

Finally, while the article notes the potential risks associated with celebrating drug usage in popular culture, it does not explore any potential benefits or counterarguments. For example, some may argue that these references serve as a form of artistic expression or social commentary on larger societal issues such as poverty and inequality.

In conclusion, while "A High Note: Drug Misuse in Popular Rap Music" provides valuable insights into the prevalence of drug references in popular rap music, it is important to consider its potential biases and limitations. Further research is needed to explore the relationship between musical preference and substance misuse, as well as the potential benefits and drawbacks of celebrating drug usage in popular culture.

# Topics for further research:

* Trends in drug references in other genres of music and forms of media
* The relationship between musical preference and substance misuse
* Factors contributing to the rise in prescription drug misuse in rap music
* Comparison of drug references in rap music among different demographics
* Arguments for and against celebrating drug usage in popular culture
* Potential benefits and drawbacks of drug references in popular culture beyond social commentary.

# Report location:

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